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TO:    Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
       Examiner: Vani Gupta  
       Commissioner for Patents  
       PO Box 1450  
       Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FROM: Douglas P. Mueller

OUR REF: 10873.1936USWO

TELEPHONE: (612) 455.3800

Total pages, including cover letter:      7

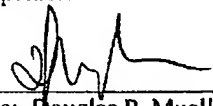
PTO FAX NUMBER: 571.273.8300

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Title of Document:      **Amendment and Response (6 pages)**


Applicant:      HIRAYAMA  
Serial No.:      10/598198  
App. Filed:      August 21, 2006  
Group Art No.: 3768

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S/N 10/598,198

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Hirayama et al.	Examiner:	Vani Gupta
Serial No.:	10/598,198	Group Art Unit:	3768
Filed:	August 21, 2006	Docket No.:	10873.1936USWO
Title:	ULTRASONIC PROBE		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d):

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By: 

Name: Melissa Zarns

Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 30, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are shown in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.